

USAID Cuba Program

Goal: To hasten the peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba.

Strategic Objective: To help build civil society by increasing the flow of accurate information on democracy, human rights, and free enterprise to, from, and within Cuba.

Major Mission Elements:

1. Building Solidarity with Cuba's Human Rights Activists

- Center for a Free Cuba - Publishes reports of human rights violations, disseminates writings of Cuban activists, sponsors visits to Cuba by human rights monitors, and distributes pro-democracy literature inside Cuba.
- Freedom House - Sponsors visits to Cuba by human rights monitors, helps develop civic and political leadership in Cuba, links independent Cuban organizations to one another and to the outside world.
- Freedom House Transitions Project - Published reports of human rights violations, disseminated writings of Cuban activists, sponsored visits to Cuba by human rights monitors and distributed pro-democracy literature inside Cuba. (Completed project)
- Grupo de Apoyo a la Democracia - Provides food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance to victims of repression inside Cuba.
- Cuban Dissidence Task Group - Provided non-financial material support to Cuba's human rights activists. (Completed project)
- Accion Democratica Cubana - Provides food, medicine, and other assistance to victims of repression.
- Institute for Democracy in Cuba - Provided food, medicine, and other assistance to victims of repression. (Completed project)
- Plantados Until Freedom and Democracy in Cuba - Provides humanitarian assistance to political prisoners and their families in Cuba.
- International Republican Institute - Helps develop international solidarity committees in Latin America and Europe – providing material, moral, and ideological support for Cuban democratic activists.
- National Democratic Institute - Provides non-financial support for Cuban democratic activists and promotes support from the international community.
- Mississippi Consortium for International Development - Helps develop Cuban human rights organizations through a new Center for the Study of Afro-Cuban issues.

2. Giving Voice to Cuba's Independent Journalists

- CubaNet - Provides comprehensive internet on-line coverage of Cuban issues by Cuba's independent journalists. (<http://www.cubanet.org>)
- Carta de Cuba - Publishes the reports of independent journalists in hard copy magazine format circulated inside Cuba and worldwide.
- Florida International University - Helps improve the professional skills of Cuba's independent journalists, through correspondence courses.

- Cuba Free Press - Disseminated reports by Cuba's independent journalists. (Completed project)

3. Helping Develop Independent Cuban NGOs

- ACDI - VOCA - Sought to develop independent agricultural cooperatives in Cuba. (Completed project)
- Pan American Development Foundation - Provides support to independent libraries and independent non-governmental organizations training Cuban entrepreneurs.
- Partners of the Americas - Provided training and non-financial material support to independent organizations inside Cuba. (Completed project)
- Loyola University Chicago - Develops social service capability of independent Cuban NGOs.
- Jackson State University - Helps develop Cuba's independent libraries.
- Florida International University and Evangelical Christian Outreach Developed a manual for the care of the elderly and distributed it to faith-based organizations inside Cuba. (Completed project)

4. Defending the Rights of Cuban Workers

- Federacion Sindical de Plantas Electricas, Gas y Agua - Helps develop independent Cuban labor unions and informs the international community concerning the violation of workers' rights in Cuba.
- National Policy Association - Encouraged international private sector firms to promote the protection of workers' rights in Cuba. (Completed project)
- ACILS: American Center for International Labor Solidarity - Brought to the attention of the world community the Cuban government's violation of labor rights. (Completed project)

5. Providing Direct Outreach to the Cuban People

- University of Miami: Developing Civil Society - Provided thousands of short-wave radios to the Cuban people. (Completed project)
- Cuba On-Line - Sends 100,000 newsletters a month to Cuban households and individuals concerning democracy, human rights and free market economics.
- SABRE Foundation - Provided books and other informational materials to the Cuban people. (Completed project)

6. Planning for Transition

- University of Miami Cuba Transition Project - Analyzes challenges that will face a future transition government in Cuba, including:
 - Establishing Democratic Institutions, Respect for Human Rights, and the Rule of Law
 - Creating the Core Institutions of a Free Economy
 - Modernizing Infrastructure
 - Meeting Basic Needs in the Areas of Health Education, Housing, and Human Services
- Georgetown University Cuba Scholarship Program - Offers scholarships for two year technical training in

U.S. community colleges to the families of political prisoners and other Cuban students and professionals seeking to build independent civil institutions inside Cuba.

- Creighton University School of Law - Will study property confiscation/restitution issues in other transition countries to develop lessons learned for the Cuba transition.
- U.S. - Cuba Business Council - Developed studies and conferences to explore U.S. private sector plans for assisting in Cuba's future free-market development. (Completed project)
- International Foundation for Election Systems - Developed a manual to assist the organization and implementation of free and fair multi-party elections during the transition to democracy in Cuba. (Completed project)
- Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, - Developed conferences to explore issues related to the transition to democracy in Cuba, drawing on lessons learned from transitions elsewhere. (Completed project)

7. Evaluation

- University of Florida - Surveyed recent Cuban emigrants to establish a baseline on knowledge, attitudes, and access to accurate information concerning democracy, human rights, and free enterprise. (Completed project)
- PricewaterhouseCoopers - Carried out a comprehensive, independent, contract evaluation of the USAID Cuba Program. (Completed project)